

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listing, of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for continuously producing an artificial marble plate comprising:

upper and lower carrier films facing each other and receiving a raw material compound for the artificial marble plate into a gap therebetween;

upper and lower horizontal heating plates receiving the upper and lower carrier films into a gap therebetween, each including temperature controlling means and heating means for heating upper and lower surfaces of the raw material compound at thea same temperature by thea same heat transmission manner to harden the raw material compound, ~~while the upper and lower carrier films moving along a gap between the upper and lower horizontal heating plates;~~ and

a pair of gaskets disposed at horizontal edges of the upper and lower carrier films for regulating thickness and width of the artificial marble plate obtained by hardening the raw material compound.

2. (Currently Amended) The apparatus for continuously producing an artificial marble plate as set forth in claim 1, further comprising:

upper and lower carrier film feed unwinders for feeding the upper and lower carrier films to the gap between the upper and the lower horizontal heating plates;

a raw material feed tank for feeding the raw material compound for the artificial marble plate into the gap between the upper and lower carrier films;

a raw material overflow prevention block, disposed between the raw material feed tank and the lower horizontal heating plate, for preventing the raw material compound fed from the raw material feed tank from flowing over the gaskets;

a contact roll, disposed after the raw material overflow prevention block and before the upper horizontal heating plate, for bringing the upper carrier film into contact with the raw material compound;

10/618,164
HLE-0002

a gasket-protecting film surrounding the gaskets to protect the gaskets;
gasket fixing members and a gasket fixing frame, disposed over the gaskets, the gasket fixing members for fixing the gasket to the gasket fixing frame;
vertically movable cylinders, disposed on the upper horizontal heating plate, for controlling the height of the upper horizontal heating plate;
upper and lower carrier film recovery winders, communicated with end parts of the upper and lower horizontal heating plates, for collecting the upper and lower carrier films from the artificial marble plate; and
a cutting unit, communicated with the upper and lower carrier film recovery winders, for cutting the artificial marble plate released from the upper and lower carrier films.

3. (Currently Amended) The apparatus for continuously producing an artificial marble plate as set forth in claim 1, further comprising a carrier film fixture, disposed under the upper carrier film and on the lower carrier film, ~~for fixing the upper and lower carrier films, for~~ fixing the upper and lower carrier films being fixed to the carrier film fixture.

4. (Currently Amended) The apparatus for continuously producing an artificial marble plate as set forth in claim 3, wherein the carrier film fixture includes:

a clamping pin;
a chain belt, ~~for fixing the clamping pin being fixed to the chain belt;~~
a position adjusting gear for adjusting the position of the chain belt; and
a driving gear for driving the chain belt.

5. (Original) The apparatus for continuously producing an artificial marble plate as set forth in claim 1, wherein the heating means includes a hot water heater, a steam heater, or an electric heater unit.

6. (Canceled)

7. (Original) The apparatus for continuously producing an artificial marble plate as set forth in claim 1, wherein each of the gaskets is made of a circle-shaped or square-shaped tube or pipe.

8. (Original) The apparatus for continuously producing an artificial marble plate as set forth in claim 1, wherein the outer diameter or the height of each of the gaskets is 6 to 40 mm.

9. (Currently Amended) The apparatus for continuously producing an artificial marble plate as set forth in claim 1, wherein each of the gaskets is made of one material selected from the group consisting of polymer and metal; and

wherein the polymer includes Teflon~~polytetrafluoroethylene~~, nylon or rubber, and the metal includes stainless steel, aluminum or copper.

10. (Currently Amended) The apparatus for continuously producing an artificial marble plate as set forth in claim 1, wherein the gaskets ~~are~~ disposed on the horizontal edges of the upper and lower films are spaced apart from each other by with a spaced distance of 500 to 1,300 mm.

11. (Original) The apparatus for continuously producing an artificial marble plate as set forth in claim 1, wherein each of the upper and lower carrier films is made of one or more materials selected from the group consisting of polyethylene, polyester, polypropylene and polyvinyl alcohol.

12. (Original) The apparatus for continuously producing an artificial marble plate as set forth in claim 1, wherein each of the upper and lower carrier films has a thickness of 20 to 100 μ m.

13-18. (Canceled)

10/618,164
HLE-0002